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***Manner: HOMICIDE***

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A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The person thus responsible for the injuries may be charged with murder or manslaughter by the prosecuting attorney, or the prosecuting attorney may decline to file charges. During 2003, 93 deaths were classified as homicide. This number represents 5.1% (93/1,815) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2003. Of these 93 homicides, 77 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 92 homicides investigated in 2002, of which 77 were incidents in King County. In 2001, 66 of 74 homicides were in King County.

The data reflect the weapons or mechanisms responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2003. Firearms were responsible for 56% (52/93), compared to 2002, when 58% (53/92) were due from firearms. Seventeen percent (16/93) of the homicidal victims died as a result of stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument. There were 15% (14/93) of deaths due to blunt impact injuries. There were five (5) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia. Three (3) deaths were due to other homicidal means.

In 2003, there were three (3) homicide victims under five years of age. One (1) homicide victim was between six and twelve years of age. Two (2) homicide victims were between thirteen and fifteen years of age. Nine (9) homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 25% (23/93) of the victims were Black, compared to 2002, when 26% (24/92) of the victims were Black. Whites, while representing 76% of the population, made up 52% (48/93) of the homicide victims. The remaining 24% of homicide victims (22/93), included Asians/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and others. (Refer to Table 1-9 on page 19. As indicated before, in 19.6% of the Medical Examiner cases the incident leading to death occurred outside of King County and the decedent was probably not a resident of King County. Therefore, Medical Examiner figures cannot be directly compared to the racial distribution of King County residents).

Males comprised 72% (67/93) and women 28% (26/93) of the victims. The majority of victims, 71% (66/93) were between the ages of 20 and 49 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 16% (15/93) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 18% (17/92) in the year 2002. Eighty-five percent (79/93) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 33% (26/79) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

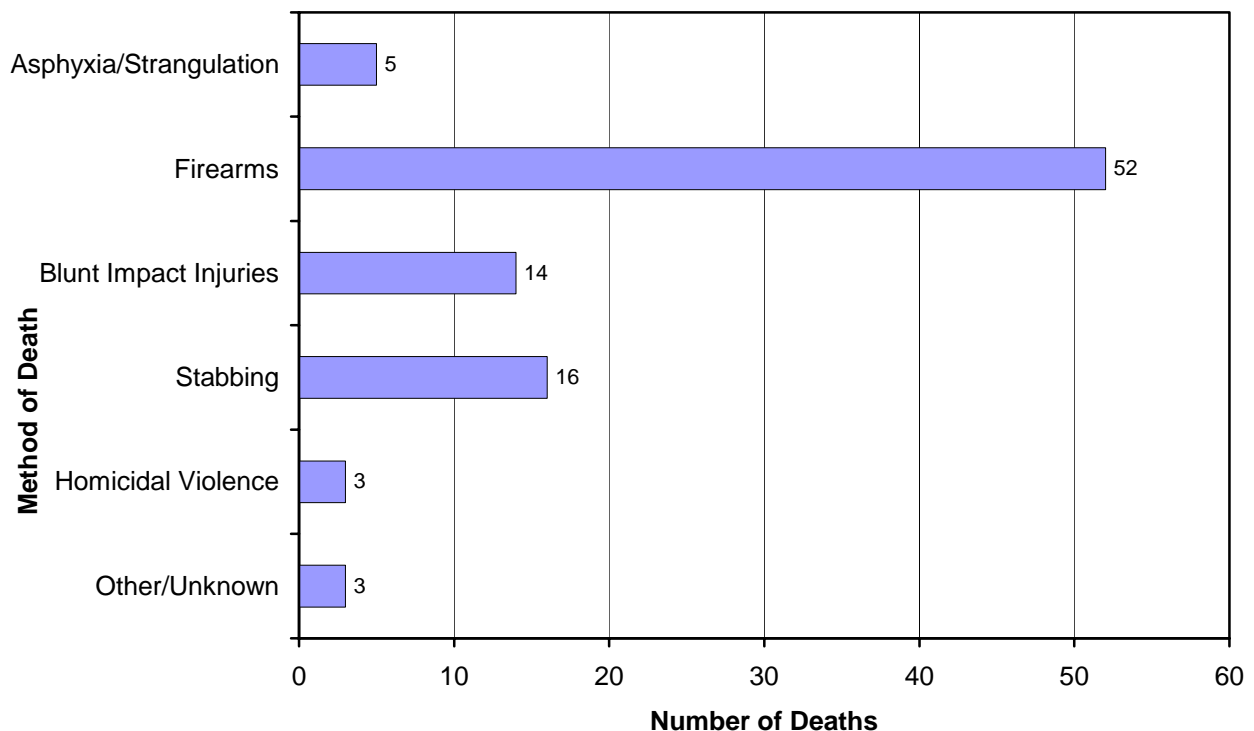
Of the 93 homicidal deaths in 2003, eighty-three percent (77/93) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 38 occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In 15 of the 93 homicidal deaths, the incident occurred outside of King County, but death occurred within King County. In one case, the place of death could not be determined.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1

## Homicidal Methods in

2003

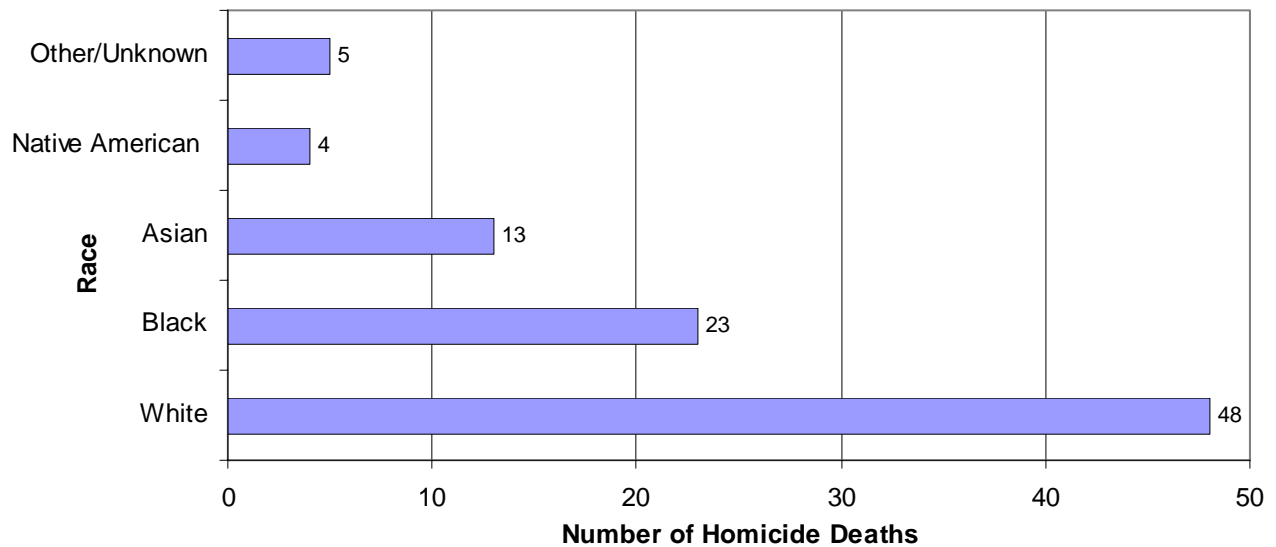
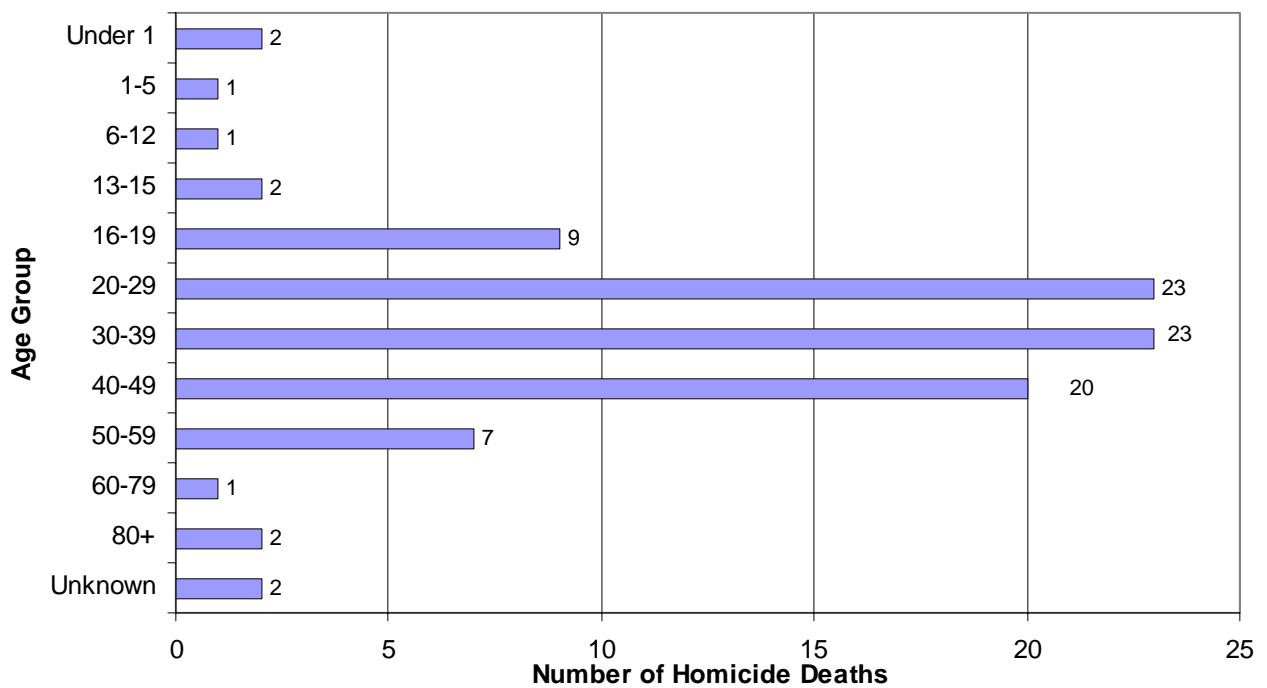


**Table 4-1 Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	2	1	1	1	0		5
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	1	1	0	4	
Firearms	27	12	8	1	4		52
<i>Male</i>	21	12	7	0	4	44	
<i>Female</i>	6	0	1	1	0	8	
Blunt Impact Injuries	9	4	0	1	0		14
<i>Male</i>	6	3	0	1	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	3	1	0	0	0	4	
Stabbing	7	5	3	1	0		16
<i>Male</i>	5	2	2	1	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	2	3	1	0	0	6	
Homicidal Violence	1	1	1	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	1	0	0	3	
Other/Unknown	2	0	0	0	1		3
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>93</b>
Percent	51.6%	24.7%	14.0%	4.3%	5.4%		

**Table 4-2 Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim**

METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)														SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +	U N K		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Firearms	0	0	0	1	2	19	17	6	4	1	0	1	0	1	52	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	1	2	18	14	4	3	1	0	0	0	1	44	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	
Blunt Impact Injuries	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	
<i>Male</i>	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	
Stabbing	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	16	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Other/ Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93</b>	
Percent	2%	1%	1%	2%	10%	25%	25%	21%	8%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%		

**Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim****Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim**

**Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender**

METHOD		AGE							SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+	Unk		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation	White	0	0	1	1	0	0	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	Black	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Asian	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Nat. American	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Firearms	White	0	1	10	7	4	5	0		27
	Male	0	1	9	5	3	3	0	21	
	Female	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	6	
	Black	0	0	5	7	0	0	0		12
	Male	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	12	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	1	1	2	3	0	1	0		8
	Male	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	7	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Nat. American	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Other	0	0	2	0	1	0	1		4
	Male	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Impact Injuries	White	2	0	0	1	5	1	0		9
	Male	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	6	
	Female	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	
	Black	3	0	1	0	0	0	0		4
	Male	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Nat. American	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

**Table 4-3 (cont'd) Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender**

METHOD		AGE							SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDE R 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+	Unk		
Stabbing	White	0	0	2	2	3	0	0		7
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	5	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	
	Black	0	1	0	0	3	1	0		5
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	
	Asian	0	0	0	1	1	1	0		3
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Nat. American	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Homicidal Violence	White	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Black	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Asian	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Other/Unknown	White	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		2
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
<b>TOTAL BY AGE</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>93</b>

**Table 4-4 Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim**

METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	1	4	5
Firearms	44	8	52
Blunt Impact Injuries	10	4	14
Homicidal Violence	0	3	3
Stabbing	10	6	16
Other	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93</b>
Percent	72%	28%	

**Table 4-5 Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim**

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	4	1	0	5
Firearms	14	34	4	52
Blunt Impact Injuries	1	8	5	14
Homicidal Violence	0	0	3	3
Stabbing	6	9	1	16
Other	1	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93</b>
Percent	28%	57%	15%	